NUMB. XI.

THE PLAIN DEALER.

Nugis addere Pondus. HOR.

MONDAY, APRIL 27. 1724.

I Yesterday went to see a very agreeable Friend, at whose House, I found a handsome Appearance of Young People of both SEXES. Upon my Entrance, Every one rose up, and very obligingly proffered me their particular Seat, each insisting on the Preference I should give in the Acceptance of the Honour design'd me.

AS I was unwilling to disoblige any One, who had treated me with so much Civility, I wink'd at my Friend, who, with great Formality conducted me to a large Elbow-Chair; and with a *GENTLEMEN, and LADIES, pray keep your Seats*, put an End to the Dispute.

WHILE I was wondring with a secret Pleasure at such an *unaccustom'd* Piece of *Good-Breeding*, and examining the Countenances of the whole Company, my Friend, who till then had discours'd of indifferent Matters, told me with a Smile, *He had assembled this Sett of Young People, with a Promise of showing them the* PLAIN DEALER, *and therefore desir'd I would throw* aside *all* Reservedness, *and look upon* Every One *as my* profess'd Admirer, *and* Friend, which was immediately confirm'd by a *General Reverence.*

I Thank'd him for the *Favour* he had done me, in introducing me into such an Agreeable Society; and could not help discovering by my Looks, the inward Satisfaction I felt at the Sight of so much *Youth*, and *Beauty*, which at last ended in that melancholy Reflection, *How many* Dangers *it was* expos'd *to, and how easily it might be* vitiated.

WHEN the Tea-Equipage was remov'd, and Every One remained silent in Expectation of what I should say, the Charming *Leonilla*, my Friend's Eldest Daughter, after having first fix'd her Eyes on a Young Lady that sat opposite to her, and then on me, desir'd in Behalf of Part of the Company, I would give my Opinion in the Case of *That* Restriction *Young Women lye under, who, from a* Custom, *which, in her Opinion, had no* just Grounds *for its Support, are* forbid *by* Decency, *let their* Passion *be the most* vertuous *and* tender, *that was ever felt, to make the* least Advance, *by which the Party belov'd may* discover *the* Sentiments *they have in his Favour.* To which I answer'd, *A Woman of Sense can never* feel *that* Tenderness, *she describ'd, for One of our Sex, who had* Nothing *but his* Person, *or* Fortune *to Recommend Himself; and a Man of* Sense *would always reckon such a* Declaration, *A* Desire *of* enjoying *that* Happiness, *whose* Basis *is* LOVE, *and whose* Support *is* VIRTUE.

AFTER I had delivered my Opinion in Favour of *Leonilla*, I turn'd to the Lady, with whom (I could perceive by the Blush in her Cheeks) she had been disputing, and told her, *There was a* false, *as well as a* true *Decency in Behaviour; and that* One *consisted in* Grimace *and* Shew, *the* Other *in an* open Deportment, *the* Result *of an unaffected, disinterested* Love *of* Virtue. *And that it would always be found, a Man has no more Reason to* conceive Hopes *from the* free Converse *of the* Latter, *than to* fear Success *from the* distant Carriage *of the* Former. True Virtue *wants no Foil to recommend its Worth, and is never talking of itself.* False Virtue, *being sensible of its own* Weakness, *is forc'd to have Recourse to* Hypocrisy, *and is ever boasting a* Strength *it is a* Stranger *to.*

AS I was running on in this grave Discourse, I was interrupted by a young Gentleman, who told us, He had heard a Copy of VERSES, said to be written by the Lady *W——y M——e*, wherein he thought there was the most Delicate Sense of *Virtue*, mixed with the most agreeable *Turn* of *Wit*, that he had ever met with. Upon the whole Company's desiring to see it, he pulled a Paper out of his Pocket, and read as follows.

The RESOLVE.

WHILST Thirst *of* Praise, *and vain* Desire *of* Fame,
In ev'ry *Age, is* ev'ry *Woman's* Aim;
With Courtship *pleas'd; of* silly Toasters *proud;*
Fond of a Train, *and happy in a* Crowd;
On each poor Fool bestowing some kind Glance;
Each Conquest owing to some loose Advance;
Whilst vain Coquetts *affect to be* pursu'd,
And think they're virtuous, *if not* grosly lewd;
Let this Great MAXIM *be my* Virtue's *Guide,*
In Part *she is to blame, who has been* try'd,
He comes *too near*, that comes to be *Deny'd.*

WE

WE all agreed in the *Character* he had given of this little *Piece*; particularly, a Gentleman, who has a Smattering in *Poetry*; and with an Oath added, *He would not be behind-Hand with the* SEX *in Modesty*. And after having call'd for Pen, Ink, and Paper, he writ the subsequent Lines, which he desir'd I would read to the Company.

ANSWER *to the* RESOLVE.

WHILST Pretty Fellows *think a Woman's* Fame,
In ev'ry *State and* ev'ry *Age the* same;
With their own Folly *pleas'd, each* FAIR *they* toast,
And where they least *are happy, swear they're* most;
No Diff'rence *making 'twixt* ——————
And she that seems, *yet is not* really *lewd*;
Whilst thus they think, *and thus they vainly* live,
And taste *no Joys but what their* Fancies *give*;
Let this Great MAXIM *be my* Action's *Guide*,
May I ne'er *hope*, tho' I am ne'er *deny'd*,
Nor think a Woman *won*, that's willing to be *try'd*.

IF before, we were *loud* in *Commendation* of the First, here we were *extravagant*; the LADIES chiefly, who oppress him with Thanks; and told him, *He should lose Nothing, by the* Generons Opinion *he had of the* SEX. To which a *Wag*, in Company, with an *envious Smile*, reply'd, 'If he should *lose* Nothing, 'he was sure, he would *get* Nothing by it;' And by Way of Caution, desir'd the LADIES to remember *Horner* in the *Country-Wife*.

MY Friend perceiving both Parties grew warm, 'desir'd them, before they went on, to consider what 'they should say, since he was perswaded the 'PLAIN DEALER would print the *Occurrences* 'of that Day.' Upon which, they all *compos'd* their Looks, and a *general Silence* ensued. When my *Friend* turning to me, 'You see, (says he) the Necessity of 'a Man of your Character; ev'ry way you're Ser-'viceable; the *Publick* feels the *Benefit* of your *Wri-'tings*; and *Private Families* that of your *Presence*; 'One is restrain'd for Fear of *Publick Censure*; the 'Other, of *Private Reproof*; If therefore you have any 'Enemies, treat them with *Candour*, and convince them 'of their Errors by a continual Practice of —— but 'I am engaging in a needless Office; and *giving* Ad-'vice where I ought to *ask* it'.

IT growing late, I took Leave of the Company (not without a particular Invitation from Each, which I promis'd at the first Opportunity to comply with,) and calling at my Printer's as I went Home, found the following Billet, which but for the Advice my Friend gave me, I should hardly have been prevail'd upon to print.

To the PLAIN DEALER.

April 25th. 1724.

SIR,

'THE best *Construction* I can put upon your Attempt is *Vanity* or *Folly*; for unless you look upon your self as *Superiour* to the Authors of the *Tatlers*, *Spectators*, *Guardians*, *Free-Thinkers*, &c. You are very *weak*, to think any Thing *inferiour* can be *reliss'd* by *those* 'who are Admirers of *Them*, amongst the most Passi-'onate of which, you may reckon

INDELECTABILIS.

N. B. *You love* PLAIN DEALING; *so do I.*

To INDELECTABILIS.

SIR,

'WHILST You Charge me with *Vanity* or *Folly*, like unskilfull Fencers, that never consider the *Guard* of their own *Bodies*, you lay your self open to the same *Reproof*; for, unless you reckon your-self *Superiour* to the *Rest* of my *Readers*, you 'are very *weak* to *find Fault*, where they are *silent*.

I am,

SIR,

The PLAIN DEALER.

N. B. *I love* PLAIN DEALING, *but not* Ill-Manners.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

An *Abstract* of the *PUBLICK DEBTS* remaining Due at *Michaelmas*, 1722. And an Estimate of the Annual Sinking Fund towards the Discharge of the same; made from the Accounts thereof delivered into *Parliament*. And also a Computation in what Time the said *Publick Debts* may be Discharged by the said *Sinking Fund*. With a Method proposed for the more Clear Stating of the said *Publick Debts* and *Sinking Fund* in Accounts hereafter to be deliver'd into *Parliament*. And a Proposal for putting an End to all *Particular Appropriations*, and turning the *whole Revenue* into *One General Fund*. And likewise some *Remarks* and *Hints* offer'd to the Consideration of the Gentlemen of the *House of Commons*, for the Improvement of the *Revenue*, by *Good Husbandry*, and otherwise; and relating to some other Matters of *Publick Utility*. By ARCHIBALD HUTCHESON, of the *Middle-Temple*, *London*, Esq; and Member of Parliament for *Hasting* in the County of *Sussex*. Where may be had, Written by the same Author.

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Printed for *J. Roberts*, in *Warwick-Lane*. Where *Letters* and *Advertisements* are taken in.